

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00574 091038Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 NASA-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 090840Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8079

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TSPA, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA STATION

REF: 75 TANANARIVE 1389

1. IN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH STATE DEPARTMENT INSPECTORS APRIL 8, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS RAKOTONDRAMASY RAISED SUBJECT OF NASA STATION, SAYING IT WAS REGRETTABLE THE TWO SIDES SEEM TO HAVE BECOME "HARDENED" IN THEIR POSITIONS. EXPLAINING BACKGROUND TO INSPECTORS, RAKOTONDRAMASY SAID THE U.S. HAD OFFERED TO TURN OVER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF "NON-SCIENTIFIC" STATION EQUIPMENT (SUCH AS VEHICLES) TO THE GDRM IN RETURN FOR RELEASE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT, BUT VALUE OF THE FORMER DID NOT EQUAL MALAGASY GOVERNMENT CLAIM AGAINST U.S. (I.E., FOR ALLEGED "BACK RENT"). THEREFORE, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WAS SIMPLY A QUESTION OF AMOUNT ("MONTANT").
2. EMBOFF SAID U.S. POSITION, CLEARLY STATED IN LATEST NOTE (DECEMBER), IS THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT CLAIM WE OWE ANY AMOUNT OF SO-CALLED BACK RENT WHATSOEVER.
3. RAKOTONDRAMASY THEN PROPOSED, IN VIEW OF WHAT HE

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PAGE 02 TANANA 00574 091038Z

TERMED "HARDENED" POSITIONS, THAT SOME THIRD PARTY OR

SPECIAL EMISSARY BE BROUGHT INTO THE PICTURE TO HELP
NEGOTIATE A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.. EMBOFF NON-COMMITTAL.

COMMENT: RAKOTONDRAMASY, WHO IS PERSONALLY FRIENDLY
TO U.S. AND SEEMS PAINED BY PROBLEM OF NASA STATION,
MAY WELL HAVE PROPOSED INTERCESSION OF A THIRD PARTY
OR SPECIAL EMISSARY TO TRY AND BREAK NASA STATION
IMPASSE ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. RAKOTONDRAMASY
EVIDENTLY ASSUMES U.S. OFFER OF LAST AUGUST TO TURN
OVER MARGINAL NASA STATION EQUIPMENT TO GDRM ON CONDITION
THAT NASA COULD REMOVE OTHER EQUIPMENT (REFTEL) IS
STILL CURRENT.SHEINBAUM

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